

Applicant: Boss et al.
Application No.: 10/820,394

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 4 and 7-9 are currently pending in this application as amended. By this Reply, claims 1, 2, 4 and 7 have been amended. Additionally, Figures 1 and 2 of the drawings have been canceled, and new Figures 1a, 1b, 2a and 2b have been added as noted above. The remaining sheets have been relabeled to indicate that there are 9 drawing sheets. Paragraphs [0025], [0026], [0035] and [0036] of the Specification have been amended in order to refer to Figures 1a, 1b, 2a and 2b, and new paragraphs [0025.1] and [0026.1] have been added. No new matter has been introduced into the application by these amendments. Replacement drawings sheets are attached which incorporate the drawing amendment.

In the action, Figures 1 and 2 of the drawings were objected to because Figures 1 and 2 showed modified forms of construction in the same view. This was done to show the forward saw blade guide and the rearward saw blade guide each having a plurality of interchangeable plates with different spaces. In view of the objection, Figures 1 and 2 have been cancelled and new Figures 1a, 1b, 2a and 2b have been added. Figures 1a and 2a correspond to original Figures 1 and 2 which show the forward and rearward saw blade guides in the installed and unassembled positions, respectively, with a first set of interchangeable plates arranged to accommodate a larger diameter saw blade. Figures 1b and 2b show the second set of interchangeable plates which accommodate a

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smaller saw blade. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection to the drawings is respectfully requested.

In the action, claims 1, 2 and 7 were objected to due to a few minor informalities noted in paragraph 3 of the action. In response, Applicants have amended the claims to address these formalities and accordingly, withdrawal of the objection to claims 1, 2 and 7 is requested.

Claims 1, 2, 4 and 7-9 were also rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph as indefinite. Specifically, a question was raised with respect to the recitation of the forward saw blade guide being selectable from the plurality of interchangeable plates having different spacings between the contact surfaces and the drive shaft or the contact surfaces of at least one of the saw blade guides being pivotable was found to be unclear. Specifically, it was not clear whether the removable blade guide had the plurality of interchangeable plates or the blade guide that was pivotable away had the interchangeable plates. In response, Applicants have clarified that it is the removable blade guides that have the plurality of interchangeable plates.

Alternatively, pivotable blade guides can be utilized. Claim 1 has been amended as discussed with the Examiner during the telephone interview to clearly identify the two types of arrangements that are at issue which have now been separately recited under Sections (a) and (b) of claim 1 in order to ensure that the claim is clear. Claim 7, which

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required the hinge, has been amended to specifically refer to the blade guide that is pivotable away from the saw blade in order to eliminate any potential confusion. Claim 4 has been amended to also address the informality noted and claims 8 and 9, which depend from claim 7, are clearly directed to the pivotable saw blade guide arrangement.

In view of these changes, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1, 2, 4, and 7-9 meet all the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, and accordingly withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested. If additional formalities need to be addressed, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone so that these can be immediately rectified so that no further formality issues remain in this case.

In the action, claims 1 and 7 were rejected as obvious in view of the combination of U.S. Patent 5,213,020 to Pleau et al. in view of U.S. Patent 6,128,994 to Phelps. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection. It is noted that the substantive rejection was not discussed with the Examiner in detail during the telephone interview which was mainly to address formalities.

The present invention is directed to saw blade guides for use in contacting the two sides of a saw blade in order to hold the blade steady during use. As recited in claim 1, the forward saw blade guide is: (a) removable from the saw blade and selected

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from a plurality of interchangeable plates having different spacings between the contact surfaces and the drive shaft so that a radial distance between the contact surfaces of the saw blade guide and the drive shaft is respectively adjustable in predetermined defined positions for matching different diameter saw blades; or (b) the forward saw blade guide is pivotable away from the saw blade and the contact surface of at least one of the saw blade guides is installed on a mounting that is pivotable in a direction parallel to the plane of the saw blade on the saw blade guide with the mounting being fixable at a plurality of predetermined pivot angles so that the radial distance between the contact surfaces of at least one of the saw blade guides and the drive shaft is respectively adjustable in predetermined positions for matching different diameter saw blades.

In contrast to the two specific adjustment mechanisms recited in claim 1, Pleau et al. is directed to a saw guide for a thin-kerf circular saw head. As shown in Figure 5, the saw guide consists of a base (42) which is fastened by bolts or studs to a foundation (17), with slots being provided in the base (42) for variously positioning the base of the guide thereby permitting adjustment of the location of the guide relative to the blade. Slotted holes in the base and the stud arrangement for mounting allow for adjustable positioning of the saw blade guide. There is no suggestion or disclosure of either interchangeable plates as recited in claim 1 or of a saw blade guide that is pivotable

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away from the saw blade with the contact surface of at least one of the saw blade guides being installed on a mounting that is pivotable in a direction parallel to the plane of the saw blade on the saw blade guide, with the mounting being fixable at a plurality of different predetermined pivot angles so that a radial distance between the contact surfaces of at least one of the saw blade guides in a drive shaft is respectively adjustable in predetermined positions for matching different diameter saw blades. Rather than having predetermined interchangeable plate sizes or predetermined adjustment positions using a pivotal mounting, Pleau et al. discloses a guide that can be slid into various positions based on the slotted hole and stud arrangement. See arrows (C) and (D) in Figure 5. Accordingly, neither the interchangeable plates nor the pivotable saw blade guide that includes a pivotable mounting (12) is disclosed or suggested by Pleau et al.

The statement in the action that a plurality of interchangeable plates is inherent in Pleau et al., is directly contrary to the teachings of Pleau et al. This reference teaches adjustment of a single saw blade guide (40) having a base (42) with slots thereby permitting adjustment without the need for any interchangeable plates. See column 6, lines 49-58. The fact that each jaw member of the saw blade guide has discrete contact pads that are adjustable to account for different thicknesses of the blade as specifically illustrated in Figure 2 and described at column 7, lines 24-45

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would not suggest interchangeable plates. To the extent that Pleau et al. teaches away from the solutions of the present invention, this is further indicia of non-obviousness of the present invention.

Phelps fails to cure the deficiencies in Pleau et al. Phelps is only relied upon as showing a circular blade with a drive housing that is arranged to move back and forth in the rotation plane of the blade. There is no suggestion or disclosure of interchangeable plates nor is there any suggestion or disclosure of a forward saw blade guide that is pivotable away from the saw blade which includes a pivotable mounting for the blade guide that is fixable at a plurality of predetermined pivot angles. Accordingly, withdrawal of the Section 103 rejection of claim 1 is respectfully requested.

As amended, claim 7 is more clearly directed to the forward saw blade guide being pivotable away from the saw blade. This allows radial distance between the contact surfaces of the saw blade guide and the drive shaft to be adjustable in predetermined defined positions for matching different saw blades in that at least one of the saw blade guides is installed on a mounting that is pivotable in a direction parallel to the plane of the saw blade on the saw blade guide, with the mounting being fixable at a plurality of predetermined pivot angles. Further, it is specified that the forward saw blade guide is pivotable away from the saw blade by a hinge, and a hinge

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pin located along a pivot axis of the hinge is adjustable by an eccentric mounting in order to set a distance between the rearward and the forward saw blade guides for matching different thicknesses of the saw blade.

This is clearly contrary to the teachings of Pleau et al. which lacks the teaching of the saw blade guide being pivotable away from the saw blade as well as the mounting installed on the saw blade guide that is pivotable in the direction parallel to the plane of the saw blade guide and is fixable at a plurality of different predetermined pivot angles in order to adjust for different sized saw blades. Further, there is suggestion or disclosure of a hinge or hinge pin located along a pivot axis being adjustable by a eccentric mounting in order to set a distance between a rearward and forward saw blade guides. Accordingly, withdrawal of the Section 103 rejection of claim 7 is respectfully requested.

The undersigned wishes to thank the Examiner for the courtesies extended during the telephone interview of September 1, 2005 in order to clarify and address the formalities noted in the action. In view of the discussion and the amendments which were proposed, it is believed that the formalities have been addressed. However, if any additional minor formal matters need to be corrected in order to obviate the formalities objections and/or rejections and place to this application in condition for allowance, the

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Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone at the Examiner's convenience in order to address these matters.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, applicants respectfully submit that the present application, including claims 1, 2, 4 and 7-9 are in condition for allowance, and a notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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